WEATHER, p. 2 THU: 31°F | 15°F Chance of snow FRI: 32°F | 25°F

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Volume 131, Number 61



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

Bruno B.F. Faviero '15, a Tech staffer, tops a newly constructed snowman with a hat on Monday evening in front of the Student Center. Light snowfall blanketed Cambridge on Monday evening.

# 'Manic Sages' steal the show!

Mystery Hunt 2012 concludes when hidden Tony is found

By Janelle Mansfield STAFF REPORTER

On Friday the 13th, hundreds of students, alumni, and puzzle enthusiasts gathered anxiously in Lobby 7. At noon, the members of the 33 teams

INSIDE

Check out the Mystery hunt photos!

that came to compete in the 2012 Mystery Hunt were greeted by two familiar characters: the infamous Max and Leo from 1968 Mel Brooks film The Producers. The two introduced the premise of the hunt, which is an MIT annual puzzling event that dates back to 1980.

Keeping with Mystery Hunt tradition, this year's hunt was planned by the winning team of last year's Hunt — "Codex." The hunt was themed around show business, and prominently featured Max and Leo from The Producers. The hunt commenced at noon on Friday and concluded on Saturday at 10:27 p.m. The winning team, "Manic Sages," solved a series of showbiz-themed puzzles to discover the location of the "coin" — whichever team reaches the



Mystery Hunt participants gather in Lobby 7 last Friday at noon to receive instructions before they begin solving puzzles. They learned that the theme of this year's hunt is making bad Broadway musicals, based on the plot of The Producers. The puzzles were Mystery, Page 12 created and organized by Borbonicus and Bodley, winners of last year's Mystery Hunt.

# Are student more stressed these days?

Enrolled Student Survey sheds light on the state of the student body

By Janelle Mansfield STAFF REPORTER

The 2011 Enrolled Student Survey, which was conducted this past spring, polled undergraduates about extracurricular and

#### INSIDE

More survey infographics, p. 10

academic activities, and underscored an apparent increase in student stress. About 65 percent of the undergraduate body responded to the online questionnaire, which is

delivered every four years.

According to the survey, MIT students are generally happy and taking advantage of campus opportunities, despite high levels of stress. The online survey is taken every four years during the spring, and all undergraduates are invited to participate. In addition to academics and extracurriculars, it has questions regarding demographic info, overall well-being, and how their skills and abilities have changed since entering MIT.

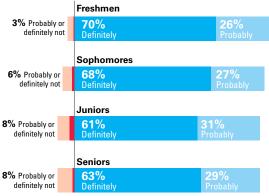
Ninety-four percent of surveyed students agreed that they would choose to go to MIT if they had the chance to do it all over again. Eighty percent of all undergraduates also felt confident in their ability to succeed at MIT. Seniors in particular were very confident, showing that perhaps students gain confidence as they progress through MIT. Ninety-six percent of students rated their experience at MIT as good or excellent.

At the same time, however, the percentage of students who report feeling overwhelmed "very often" has risen from 18 percent in 2007 to 25 percent in 2011. Alan E. Siegel, director of Mental Health Services, said that the amount of students that come

Survey, Page 9

#### If you could start all over again, would you go to MIT?

This was a question on the recently released MIT Enrolled Students Survey. For more of the survey results, see Page 10



INFOGRAPHIC BY CONNOR KIRSCHBAUM—THE TECH

#### IN SHORT

6.002, Circuits and Electronics, will have a pilot section for MITx next term, going by 6.002x. For more information about MITx check http://mitx.mit. edu/.

The first IS&T Student Town Meeting will be held today from 12 p.m. to 1 **p.m. in 32-155.** Students are welcome to come and discuss printing, scanning, athena clusters, and other IS&T issues at MIT.

All continuing students must finish pre-registration by tomorrow! Or face an \$85 fine.

Send news information and tips to news@tech. mit.edu.

# Early action numbers fall

#### Potentially caused by other renewed EA programs

By Jaya Narain

STAFF REPORTER

When asked about the decline in the number of last year — Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 hypothesized that the decrease was likely caused by the reinstitution of early application programs at several other universities this year.

"One thing that is certainly true is that because Harvard and Princeton went back to their early pool," Schmill said, "that was probably one of the reasons the number of our early action applicants

Harvard and Princeton both established single-choice early action (SCEA) programs for this admissions cycle, after discontinuing other early application programs in 2006. Like MIT's early action program, SCEA is nonbinding; the difference is that applicants who apply to Princeton or Harvard under SCEA may not apply early to any other private institutions.

680 of 6,008 early applicants, or 11.3 percent of

applicants, were admitted to the Class of 2016 in mid-December. This marks a slight decrease from last year's early acceptance rate of 12.1 percent and a small increase from the 10.3 early-action admit percentage for the class of 2014

But, because of greater variety of early application options, Schmill said that the applicants who chose to apply to MIT early were very well-suited for the school. "The students who applied early to us were clearly very well focused on MIT and really strong matches to our culture and community, which made the choices particularly hard this year," he said.

The number of applicants admitted through MIT's early action program varies with the predicted distribution of applicants between the early and regular cycles.

"Our intent is to somewhat mirror the way the applicants come in - meaning that if a third or half of our applicants come in early, we would look to enroll that many from that cycle," Schmill said.

Admissions, Page 9

#### **MIT Institute Professor Emeritus wins** Enrico Fermi Award

Last week President Obama named Mildred S. Dresselhaus, emeritus institute professor of physics and electrical engineering and computer science, and Burton Richter '52, emeritus professor in the physical sciences at Stanford, as this year's winners of the Enrico Fermi Award. The award is given "to encourage excellence in research in energy science and technology benefiting mankind," according to its description. Etablished in 1956 to honor the accomplishments of 1938 physics Nobel Laureate Enrico Fermi, the award carries a gold medal and an honorarium of \$50,000, shared equally by its recipients.

For the past 50 year at MIT and the Lincoln Laboratory, Dresselhaus contributed extensive research that led to fundamental understandings in the field of condensed matter physics. Her research group has drawn much attention for its work in the areas of carbon nanotubes, bismuth nanowires, and low dimension thermoelectricity.

Dresselhaus has served in numers scientific leadership roles, including as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Treasurer of the US National Academy of Sciences, President of the American Physical Society, and Chair of the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics. Her other accolades include the U.S. National Medal of Science and 23 honorary doctorates worldwide.

According the MIT News Office, outside the laboratory, Dresselhaus is widely known for her commitment to mentoring students, especially as a mentor and advocate for women in

Fermi award, Page 12

#### **DO COMPANIES CHECK FACEBOOK?**

Chacha, our new advice columnist, has the answer.

CAMPUS LIFE, p. 14

#### THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

Does Santorum have a chance? OPINION, p. 5

#### **STAYING IN STASIS**

Coming to terms with growing up. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 15



#### **BUT THEN I TOOK AN** ARROW TO THE KNEE

Does Skyrim live up to the hype? ARTS, p. 19

#### THE INTERNET **GOES DARK**

Websites shut down to protest SOPA and PIPA. **NEWS, p. 16** 

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# Yemeni official hints at election delay

BEIRUT — Adding to fears of a worsening political crisis in Yemen, a top government official hinted that presidential elections set for February that would mark the formal end of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's 33-year rule could be delayed.

During an interview broadcast Tuesday on Al Arabiya, Yemen's foreign minister, Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, said it would be "difficult" to hold the elections on Feb. 21 as planned because security in the country was deteriorating. The elections are a condition of a power transfer deal that Saleh signed in November, and Yemeni officials have called them a critical milestone in progress toward ending the crisis.

Opposition figures quickly criticized his comments, and a spokesman for Yemen's vice president said there would be no delay, according to CNN.

Still, the muddled signals underscored the difficulties Yemeni officials face as they try to implement an agreement that is intended to quiet a year of popular protests and start the country's political transition.

-Kareem Fahim, The New York Times

# Congress sees few barriers in extending payroll tax cut

WASHINGTON — With both parties largely in agreement on a yearlong extension of President Barack Obama's payroll tax cut, the fight in Congress over the coming weeks will boil down to how to pay for it, and Democrats appeared to hold the advantage as members of the House returned to Washington on Tuesday.

Senior Democratic aides say they are entering the tax negotiations in a strong position after House Republicans yielded to bipartisan political pressure and passed a two-month extension of the two-percentage-point payroll tax cut just before their winter break.

Republicans, eager to avoid another bruising fight, have signaled that they will drop the most controversial provisions in the version of the yearlong extension passed by the House earlier in December. Those include efforts to block environmental regulations on boilers and carbon emissions, and to allow states to impose drug tests on recipients of unemployment benefits.

Democrats have retreated from their effort to raise taxes on incomes over \$1 million to finance the extension of a tax cut for most working Americans, stave off a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors and extend expiring unemployment benefits. But they do not seem ready to give much more ground.

—Jonathan Weisman, The New York Times

# Romney faces forceful attacks in GOP debate

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Mitt Romney came under forceful attacks during a debate here Monday evening, with his Republican rivals lining up to question his business background, wealth and character, as they implored voters to scrutinize his candidacy before he sails to the party's presidential

With five days remaining before the South Carolina primary, the Republican challengers wasted little time before firing pointed questions at Romney. They called on him to release his tax returns, explain whether his corporate buyout firm Bain Capital had created or killed jobs and account for his evolving views on social issues like abortion.

A spirited crowd of nearly 3,000 Republican activists at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center cheered as the candidates circled around Romney and pressed him for answers. He responded to some questions, deflected others and worked to keep his cool during the forum, which was broadcast by Fox News.

—Jeff Zeleny and Jim Rutenberg, The New York Times

# More ship bodies found, new drama in capt. transcript

By Gaia Pianigiani and Alan Cowell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GIGLIO, Italy — Rescuers pulled five bodies clad in sodden life vests from the partly sunken cruise ship Costa Concordia on Tuesday, bringing the death toll in the disaster to at least 11, as Italian media published transcripts of a screaming match between the coast guard and the ship's captain, who fled to a life boat after he smashed the vessel on a reef.

Publication of the transcripts added a dramatic new dimension to the accounts of the accident Friday night, when Capt. Francesco Schettino, 52, apparently tried to show off the gleaming \$450 million vessel to residents of this island off the coast of Tuscany, and in the process ripped a hole in its hull. The ship quickly began to list heavily to starboard as panicked passengers and crew made pell-mell escapes, evoking images of the Titanic's final moments.

"Go up on the bow of the ship on a rope ladder, and tell me what you can do, how many people are there and what they need — now!" Gregorio Maria De Falco, a coast guard officer, said to Schettino by telephone as the captain bobbed in a lifeboat, as revealed in audio recordings published by Corriere della Sera, a leading Italian newspaper.

"All right, I'm going," Schettino is heard to reply.

The recordings and transcripts suggested that the coast guard officer was stupefied that Schettino had vacated the ship before accounting for all 4,200 passengers and crew on board. They also indicate that the captain did not know that people had died and had asked the coast guard officer for an accounting.

"You are the one who has to tell me how many there are! Christ!" the officer screams at the captain in response

Prosecutors and the cruise line that owns the ship have blamed Schettino for the wreck, saying he deviated from the course plotted in advance for the ship. Schettino has said he hit an uncharted rock.

Late Tuesday a judge decided

to free Schettino from police custody but ordered him placed under house arrest at his home in Sorrento, Italy, about 250 miles south of the shipwreck site. Criminal charges including manslaughter and abandoning ship are expected to be filed by prosecutors in coming days.

News, photographs and video from the shipwreck have sent shudders through the global cruise industry at the most important time of the year for vacation bookings.

In a sign of growing concern, Micky Arison, chief executive of the Costa Concordia's parent company, Carnival Corp. of Miami, the world's largest cruise line operator, issued a statement on Tuesday expressing grief at word of the newly discovered bodies. Arison also disclosed that Carnival had sent its own senior technical experts to Giglio "to provide additional support for this tragic and highly unusual incident."

The recovery of the five bodies Tuesday came after rescue crews blasted holes into the stricken vessel's hull to open up new access and escape routes.

# Opponents of Wisconsin governor deliver recall petitions

By Monica Davey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Critics of Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin submitted to the state on Tuesday more than 1 million signatures, nearly twice as many as required, on recall petitions against Walker to force a new election.

State election officials now begin the arduous, expensive process of studying the petitions for flaws and duplicated names. But leaders of the recall effort said the number of signatures was so large as to put any serious legal challenge out of reach.

The anti-Walker forces needed 540,208 names and had estimated that they would produce at least 720,000, so the still larger number came as a surprise to many.

Barring a legal fight, Walker, a Republican who took office a year ago and set off a firestorm by curtailing collective bargaining rights for public workers, will face a new election in the late spring or early summer. Around the country, only two governors have ever been removed through recall.

"This sends a message," said Graeme Zielinski, a spokesman for the Wisconsin Democratic Party, who described the 1 million names as evidence that this was the largest signature drive, in terms of the percentage of the state's electorate signing, for a recall effort in U.S. history.

Walker was attending a fundraiser in New York on Tuesday, but had said earlier that a recall election appeared inevitable. "I look forward to talking to the people of Wisconsin about my continued promises to control government spending, balance the budget and hold the line on taxes," Walker said in a statement released by his campaign office as the petitions — all 3,000 pounds of them — were being delivered to state officials with great fanfare.

He added later, "Instead of go-

ing back to the days of billion-dollar budget deficits, double-digit tax increases and record job loss, I expect Wisconsin voters will stand with me and keep moving Wisconsin forward."

Buoyed by the number of names, a jubilant, carefully orchestrated celebration unfolded in Madison, where Democrats and union supporters watched a truck pull up carrying box after box of petitions.

Ryan Lawler, a board member for United Wisconsin, the group that led the two-month signature-collection effort, said the numbers were evidence of the emotions involved.

"Scott Walker and his supporters tried to demean and marginalize recall circulators, but in Wisconsin winter, an army of more than 30,000 Wisconsin-born-and-bred recall volunteers took to street corners, malls, places of worship, dinner tables and sidewalks to take their state back," he said.

WEATHER

#### Active Winter Weather Moving to New England

By Roman Kowch
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The tranquil weather pattern and above-average temperatures of this winter in the Northeast should slowly change through the rest of January. The cold temperatures last weekend, when Logan Airport reached 6°F (-14°C) Saturday night, serve as a good example of what's probably coming later this month. The jet stream, or the main storm track, has been split between northern Canada and a path from the desert Southwest toward the northern Plains for most of winter. This pattern has "locked"

the cold air within Canada, allowing for warm air to stream in with the relatively weak storms thus far across the lower 48.

However, the jet stream is finally transitioning to another general setup, one that is more common for North American winters. Thus, more storms are likely to arrive in New England soon, with one passing by today and another during the upcoming weekend. Today's weather will feature high winds as the nearby storm departs, and cold temperatures will return tonight. Snow may also fall on Thursday and on the weekend, since temperatures should remain below freezing as the next storm arrives.

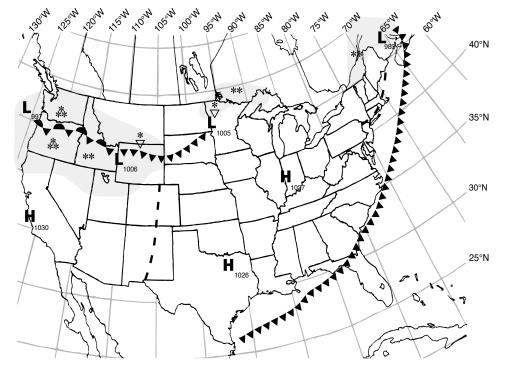
#### **Extended Forecast**

Today: Sunny and breezy. High 38°F (3°C), quickly falling later in the day. W wind at 20-25 mph, gusts to 45 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 15°F (-9°C). NW wind at 15-20 mph.

Tomorrow: Increasing clouds, chance of snow. High 31°F (-1°C). N

wind 5-10 mph. **Friday**: Sunny. High near 32°F (0°C), low near 25°F (-4°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols	
High Pressure	Trough Warm Front	Showers	Snow *	Rain	Fog Thunderstorm	
Low Pressure  § Hurricane	Cold Front  Stationary Front	Moderate	**	·· ··	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech	

# European central bankers criticize role of rating agencies

By Julia Werdigier
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — Two European central bank chiefs are urging investors to pay less attention to credit rating agencies and to consider other factors in assessing what the region's debt is worth.

Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank, and Mervyn A. King, the governor of the Bank of England, separately questioned the role of rating agencies after Standard & Poor's cut its ratings Friday on nine European countries, including France and Italy.

One should "put less focus directly on what the ratings agencies say and more on what the market as a whole is saying in terms of sovereign debt," King told a parliamentary committee in London on Tuesday. "What we need to do is to move to a point, and I think markets have gone some way towards that, where they pay less attention to the verdicts of the ratings agencies."

Draghi told the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Monday that "we should learn to do without rat-

ings, or at least we should learn to assess creditworthiness."

He added, "Certainly one needs to ask how important are these ratings for the marketplace over all, for investors"

Ratings agencies have attracted criticism from politicians for specific downgrades, but the comments from the two central bankers questioned the wider role of the agencies.

The three big rating agencies — S&P, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings — have repeatedly lowered their ratings for the sovereign debt of European economies over the past year, saying some austerity measures were not far-reaching enough to deal with high debt levels. The downgrades have made it more difficult for governments to raise money cheaply and heightened concerns about the ability of some countries to finance their debts.

Martin Winn, a spokesman for Standard & Poor's, said the agency was "focused on fulfilling our role to investors by providing an independent view of creditworthiness — one based on rigorous analysis and our transparent and consistently applied criteria. We would also point out that our sovereign ratings have an excellent track record as indicators of default risk."

A Moody's representative said, "The fundamental concern over the role of credit rating agencies stems from their use in regulation, and Moody's has long supported removing the mechanical reliance on ratings in regulation."

A spokesman for Fitch, Daniel Noonan, wrote by email that credit ratings "should be considered among numerous inputs when making investment decisions." He added that Fitch "broadly supports efforts to reduce overreliance on ratings."

In a sign that investors are already starting to pay less attention to rating agencies, Spain's borrowing costs fell during an auction Tuesday even after Standard & Poor's cut the country's debt rating by two levels Friday. Greece also sold Treasury bills Tuesday with a yield that was lower than at an auction in December

# Few cities have regained jobs they lost, report finds

By Michael Cooper

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Less than a tenth of the nation's metropolitan areas have regained the jobs they lost in the economic downturn, according to a report being released Wednesday by the nation's mayors as they gather in Washington to express their exasperation that the federal government seems more intent on cutting aid to cities than on sending more.

Only 26 of the nation's 363 metropolitan areas had recovered their lost jobs by the end of 2011, and only 26 more are projected to recover them by end of this year, according to the report, which was commissioned by the United States Conference of Mayors.

It will take at least five years for the 80 hardest-hit areas to recover the jobs they lost, the report forecast.

Households in metropolitan areas experienced a 2.2 percent

decline in median income from 2009 to 2010, it found, while those in rural areas did not see a statistically significant decline. And the report said that housing prices fell by 4 percent in 2011, sapping household wealth and further shrinking the property tax base that many cities rely on.

But the lingering economic crisis has failed to spur any meaningful recent action in Washington, mayors said in interviews.

"We're looking for a partnership with the Congress to put America back to work," Mayor Antonio Villaraigosaof Los Angeles, a Democrat who is the president of the mayors' group, said in an interview.

"We're looking for the Congress to do its job. If we were to grade the 112th Congress, I think you'd have to say the midterm report card grade would be very clear: an F for failure."

Not only has Congress failed to overcome partisan gridlock to

agree on a way to created muchneeded jobs by spending more
money on infrastructure, mayors
said, but even the small sources of
federal support that cities rely on
— whether the Community Development Block Grants that were devised by Republican administrations in the 1970s or more recent
federal programs that help struggling cities pay for more police
officers or firefighters — are being
scaled back as Washington has
made cutting the deficit a priority.

The resulting frustration cuts across party lines. Asked how Washington had responded to the slow and uneven recovery, Mayor Scott Smith of Mesa, Ariz., a Republican, answered the question with a question. "What have they done?" he asked.

He said that Mesa depended on its shrinking share of federal block grants to help pay for important local needs, including a shelter that cares for homeless men, some of whom are veterans.

# For Southern TV chef Deen, Type 2 diabetes leads to 'I told you so'

By Julia Moskin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

For 10 years, wielding slabs of cream cheese and mounds of mayonnaise, Paula Deen has become television's self-crowned queen of Southern cuisine and one of the country's most popular chefs, with an empire built on layers of gooey butter cake, fried chicken and sheer force of personality.

On Tuesday, she suddenly unveiled a new career for herself: herald of a healthy lifestyle. In an interview on the "Today" show on NBC, she revealed — as has long been rumored — that she has Type 2 diabetes, a diagnosis she said she received three years ago. In an interview with The New York Times, she said the delay had been part of a necessary personal journey.

"I wanted to wait until I had something to bring to the table," she said

Now, Deen, 64, has brought to

her own table a multiplatform endorsement deal with Novo Nordisk, the Danish pharmaceutical company that makes Victoza, an noninsulin injectable diabetes medication that she began promoting Tuesday morning. She and her sons Jamie and Bobby (who do not have diabetes) are all being paid to spearhead the company's upbeat new public-relations campaign, "Diabetes in a New Light," which advocates using the drug along with eating lighter foods and increasing physical activity.

All the same, Deen said she would not change her own lifestyle or cooking style drastically, other than to reduce portion sizes of unhealthful foods

healthful foods.

"I've always preached moderation," she said. "I don't blame myself."

Bobby Deen, who was at his mother's side throughout the day, has a new healthful-cooking show, "Not My Mama's Meals," that began last month. Through a spokeswoman, the Food Network denied that it knew of Deen's illness before last

Deen's announcement, delivered with the liveliness of the head cheerleader she was back in 1964, testified to her savvy as an up-from-the-roots businesswoman, turning a personal setback into a fresh opportunity with a series of media appearances that played out through the day. Andrew Essex, head of the New York marketing agency Droga5, which advises candidates and companies on branding, said Deen's bid for transformation was ambitious.

"There's no question that she was the face of a certain kind of egregious indulgence," he said. "If she can now become the face of healthy living, it will be a Gatsby-esque turnaround."

Her revelation also adds a fresh story line to a roiling national debate about obesity, with elements of celebrity, schadenfreude and the current popular favorite, class warfare.

# Los Angeles mandates condoms in sex films

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles City Council approved a mandate Tuesday requiring all actors in pornographic films to wear condoms during any filming that takes place within city limits. The law is the first of its kind, advocates said, and could have a significant impact on what some say is a \$1 billion industry.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has pressed for such legislation for years and last year secured nearly double the number of signatures needed to place the issue on the ballot in June, when the state is scheduled to hold its presidential primary.

But the ballot initiative would have cost the already strapped city roughly \$4 million. Several council members suggested that voters were likely to approve the measure by a large margin anyway and that the Council should simply save the money by approving it. The Council did that Tuesday, without debate, in a 9-1 vote.

The new mandate will allow the Los Angeles Police Department to perform spot checks on any set once a film permit is issued. A group of officials from the Police Department, the state's workplace safety agency and the city attorney's office will make recommendations on how to implement the policy, which goes into effect in 90 days.

—Jennifer Medina, The New York Times

# For some Internet startups, a failure is just the beginning

Every entrepreneur hopes to start the next big thing. But sometimes the first try doesn't go as planned.

Bradford Shellhammer remembers the exact moment he realized his fledgling Web startup, Fabulis, a review site and social network geared toward gay men, was a flop. Last November, he and Jason Goldberg, one of his co-founders, flew to London, expecting to hold a festive party for their users there. Instead they found themselves among a sparse crowd at a tacky club in Soho.

"No one showed up!" said Shellhammer, burying his face in his hands at the memory. "It was so awful. We were just like, 'what are we doing?"

After that disaster, Shellhammer and Goldberg laid off more than half of their employees, threw out the code they had written, and changed course. Six months later, they introduced a high-end e-commerce site called Fab.com.

Theirs is just one example of a startup that decided to cut its losses and pivot — choosing an entirely new direction in the hopes of transforming a dud of a business into one that might have a shot at success.

To pivot is, essentially, to fail gracefully. While the term has been in the startup lexicon for decades, it is coming up more often in the current Internet boom, as entrepreneurs find that many investors are willing to keep the money flowing even if a startup takes a hard left turn.

—Jenna Wortham, The New York Times

# Struggling Egypt seeks \$3.2 billion loan from IMF

CAIRO — Egypt's military rulers asked the International Monetary Fund on Monday for a \$3.2 billion loan that they had previously rejected, bowing to the realities of a worsening economy nearly a year after the exit of the strongman Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptian officials said they might ask for even more. "It may increase," Fayza Abul Naga, minister of planning and international cooperation, said at a news conference with a visiting delegation from the fund.

The loan request to the International Monetary Fund was essentially the same as the package that Egyptian officials had negotiated last spring, people familiar with the terms said. At the time, the military-led government had abruptly decided that debts to the IMF could impose conditions that the military rulers considered an infringement on Egyptian sovereignty.

Since then, however, Egypt's economy has continued to suffer from the collapse of tourism and foreign investment amid the unrest and uncertainty of the military-led transition after the ouster of Mubarak in February.

—David D. Kirkpatrick, The New York Times

#### European court overrules Britain on terrorism detainee

LONDON — The European Court of Human Rights ruled Tuesday that Abu Qatada, a radical Islamic preacher regarded as one of al-Qaida's main inspirational leaders in Europe, cannot be deported from Britain to his native Jordan because his trial there would be tainted by evidence obtained by torture.

The preacher, whose real name is Omar Mahmoud Mohammed Othman, is in prison in Britain and has been convicted in his absence in Jordan of planning two bombing attacks. The British government had insisted that he be returned to Jordan as part of a wider strategy of dealing with international terrorism suspects by deportation

Although it accepted Jordan's assurances that Othman would be treated humanely, the European court in Strasbourg, France, said in its ruling that evidence against Othman in the Jordan bombings "had been obtained by torturing one of his co-defendants." Deporting him would "legitimize the torture of witnesses and suspects," it said, and "result in a flagrant denial of justice."

The court's decision can be appealed within three months, but if upheld, it would require that Othman be released or be charged in Britain.

The decision also emerged as the latest in a long line of disagreements between Britain and authorities in Europe that have taken on a particularly bitter character as Prime Minister David Cameron has clashed with his counterparts in France and Germany over the financial crisis in the eurozone.

It provoked right-leaning politicians and pundits, who railed Tuesday against what they described as yet another imposition of European restrictions on British life. The Conservative Party law-maker Dominic Raab told reporters that the court had run "rough-shod over decisions that should be determined by U.K. courts."

—Ravi Somaiya and John Burns, The New York Times



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#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# The Occupy movement should be taken seriously

After reading Haldun Anil's opinion piece on the Occupy movement, I felt compelled to respond to some of the inaccuracies and distortions in this article, which were almost identical to those voiced in the mainstream media, largely controlled by the rich. The article has the effect of discrediting the Occupy movement's legitimate concerns by simplifying the motivations of those involved in the Occupy movement. The author states: " ... it wouldn't take a genius to figure out why those not in the one percent would be angry about this enormous income gap." In order to "...put things into perspective..." the author cites the starting yearly salary of those in the "one percent" and compares it to the median household income of the "99 percent".

In selectively citing only these two figures, the author omits the fact that income disparity is huge even in the top one percent. The top 0.1 percent of Americans earn incomes several orders of magnitude greater than even others in the top one

percent. If the author had instead compared the top 0.1 percent with the income of millions of Americans living in poverty, income inequality would have appeared much more significant and serious. I was surprised that this important information was omitted, because it is easily accessible in scholarly, peer-reviewed research. The small difference between the cited figures has the effect of minimizing the apparent difference between the rich and poor, and allows the reader to conclude that any complaints about this disparity are childish and pointless.

The author further justifies the rise of the ultra rich as: "...something that must simply be accepted as a pre-existing condition for a capitalist economic system". This is precisely the same logic that is used to destroy social services and programs for the poor, one of many ways that the powerful are able to shift the balance of wealth in their direction. This logic is shockingly callous as always.

In addition, the author discusses the Occupy Harvard movement and again attempts to discredit this movement based solely on the fact that the students participating in this program are elite, and therefore have no right to complain. While I do believe it is normal to question

the motivation of these students, totally dismissing them on the basis of their education is, in my opinion, wrong. There are many examples in history where well-educated, 'elite' members of society have selflessly acted to benefit the less fortunate, and implying that Harvard students cannot choose to do this is presumptuous and wrong

Finally, the author's speculations about the failure of the Occupy movement are misinformed, not only because of the many direct actions such as port blockades and the "Occupy Congress" protests, but presumptions about what exactly the Occupy movement represents. The author blithely states that "besides making us talk about them, they have achieved nothing," but fails to understand that the Occupy movement may very well be only the beginning of greater cooperation and engagement of civil society with unions, environmental organizations, human rights groups and poverty activists, all of whom realize this enormous income disparity threatens our lives and world in many serious

> Jesse McNichol Ph.D. Candidate, MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Biological Oceanography.

## Romney vs. Obama

#### An exciting election cycle ahead

By Haldun Anil

The 2012 political horse race hasn't disappointed so far. We currently have Mitt Romney (the "moderate"), Ron Paul (the "libertarian"), Newt Gingrich (the "Newt"), Rick Santorum (the "true" conservative), and Rick Perry (the "if-elected-President-I-

would-reinvade-Iraq").

First, let's do a quick recap of what happened in Iowa and New Hampshire. After defeating Rick Santorum by exactly eight votes in Iowa, Mitt Romney went on to win New Hampshire. There, by virtue of his governorship of the neighbor-state Massachusetts, Romney scored a win by trampling all his opponents with 40 percent of the vote (the closest second was Ron Paul, who received 23 percent of the vote).

The latest polls show a good amount of support for Romney in South Carolina and Florida. Funnily enough, Stephen Colbert of Comedy Central's *Colbert Report* also announced his candidacy in South Carolina for the "President of the United States of South Carolina" after seeing that he polled higher than Huntsman, one of the candidates who dropped out. After giving the control of his super PAC to Jon Stewart, Colbert officially created his exploratory committee to see whether his candidacy is a viable option. We'll see if he manages to beat any of the more conservative favorites in South Carolina.

At this point, I'd like to join my fellow opinion columnist, Keith Yost, on his bandwagon and say that, unless world-ending catastrophes ensue as per our expectations for the year 2012, Romney will be the Republican presidential nominee facing Obama. I

think this is great. Choosing the right president will be more difficult than ever at a time when Congress has ridiculously low levels of support from the public, when the current President's approval ratings are decreasing, and when the Republican/Democrat divide is so even that we're in a constant state of Congressional gridlock.

As a result, in order to come out on top, both candidates will need to display an unmatched level of understanding of foreign and domestic policy, the economy, and social issues such as healthcare. Both lawyers from Harvard, Romney and Obama have the educational background to help them succeed as president. They are both very well-organized, have the support of brilliant campaigners and possess deep enough pockets to keep the race going as far as needed. However, both candidates have substantial and relevant differences which will make the election interesting.

# Romney's foremost strength would be to be the CEO of America.

With years of corporate experience at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and, more importantly, at Bain Capital, Romney is hardly a career politician. As a result, his first and foremost strength, if elected, would be to be the CEO of America. In light of our current economic predicament, this may very well be a good thing to jump-start our otherwise sluggish and barely growing economy (GDP growth for 2012 is expected to hover around two percent, not adequate to create a sufficient number of much-needed jobs). Romney's biggest challenge against Obama

in direct debates or other oratorical events would be that Romney is not as energizing a campaigner; he is colder and less charismatic than Obama. Past experience tells us that charisma, while a good thing for a campaigner, may be less than useful when elected.

On the other hand, we have Obama, a President who many revered as the harbinger of change and progress. As his tenure went on, however, he has managed to prove us wrong time and again, barely holding his own against the Republicans in the debt ceiling debate. In the coming election cycle, Obama will have to prove to voters that he can still bring something worth fighting for to the table, argue that he has brought forth a national healthcare bill that aims to provide as universal a coverage as possible, and show that he can repair the stalled economy. These would be bold, and certainly feasible claims, provided he acts more decisively this time around. To win, Obama will have several routes to choose from: he can either highlight the zeniths of his Presidency and try to convince voters that he'll continue them, or he can argue that he will use another term to do things he didn't have the chance to do. An alternative route, of course, would be to combine the two strategies.

At this point in time, it's extremely premature to try to predict who will be the victor of the 2012 elections. One thing is certain — in order to win, the candidates will both need to appeal to the middle. Easier said than done. Getting the middle to side with either candidate will be a tough job, as the candidates will need to persuade them that America's disappearing middle class will be taken care of, rehabilitated, and brought back to life. Exciting debates and campaigns await!

#### **CORRECTIONS**

An inshort that ran on January 11th stated incorrectly that La Verdes is open until midnight during IAP. They close at 11 p.m.

#### **OPINION POLICY**

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Joseph Maurer, Editor in Chief Ethan A. Solomon, Managing Editor Connor Kirschbaum, Executive Editor Aislyn Schalck, and Opinion Editors Nina Sinatra and Ryan Normandin.

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#### Bible-belting bad boy doesn't stand a chance against the Romney Goliath

By Andy Liang

ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

I'm glad to see that none of the critics took the recently released movie, Machine-Gun Preacher, seriously. The premise of the movie is, "You may not fear God, but you best fear Sam Childers." Sam Childers, played by Gerard Butler, is the ex-con turned missionary turned warrior-of-God, finding himself in war-torn Sudan, saving orphans from warlords by gunning them down with AK-47s, Rambo-style. Had the director been Sylvester Stallone, or even Quentin Tarantino, I'd know what to expect: an action-packed movie of odd with crazy wrapped in great. But Machine-Gun Preacher takes itself seriously in its mission to save African children, unfortunately, through the eves of a Spartan muscleman. The movie's contexts of somber Sudan, and style of Yosemite Sam-showdown, disagree, making the film a recipe for a wreck.

Butler's holy mess for a film parallels Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum's holy mess of a campaign. The former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania has adopted a take-no-prisoners evangelical approach to his campaign. Santorum's plat-

form runs on trumpeting "family values," halting abortion practices, interrupting gay marriages, and stopping Obama's class warfare. He believes that "America is a moral enterprise, not an economic enterprise," in rebuke of Mitt Romney's businessman appeal and Romney's super PAC's "Restore the Future" support. What Santorum lacks in business experience, he makes up for in Machine-Gun Preaching:

"The idea that the Crusades and the fight of Christendom against Islam is somehow an aggression on our part is absolutely antihistorical. And that is what the perception is by the American Left who hates Christendom... What I'm talking about is onward American soldiers. What we're talking about are core American values." This was said at the Oakbrook Preparatory School in Spartanburg, South Carolina to 200-plus

Santorum's devotion to his Christendom seeks to win sideline support from socially conservative voters, especially in South Carolina, where evangelicals account for 60 percent of the Republican primary vote. Indeed his tough church-boy act has curried favor from the Carolinians. In Mount Pleasant, SC, he raised "over \$3 million in a week." For Santorum, South Carolina will be the make-it or break-it state. Since 1980, winners of the South Carolina's primaries have gone on to capture the Republican nominations. Thus the predictions of the Republican race will weigh on the Palmetto State (SC) primary. If Mitt Romney were to win the Ames Straw poll (IO), the New Castle Straw Poll (NH), and the Palmetto State primary, which no one has ever done before, "it should be over" (as commented by R. Sen. Lindsay Graham on "Meet the Press"). Regardless of whether Santorum can pass the stepping stone that is South Carolina, he will probably sink when it comes time for the Republican National Convention

Santorum's success so far has come from endorsements from evangelical leaders. Back in the Iowa caucus, Santorum managed a surprise capture of second place to Romney, behind by only eight votes, because of strong backing by religious voters. In Texas, 150 social conservatives represented by the Family Research Council agreed to support Santorum over native Texan candidate, Rick Perry. Indeed there have been times when the light was shining

But pockets of churchgoers are not

enough to carry the tide of support within Santorum's campaign. Republicans are looking for a guide through the financial and healthcare problem, not the moral crisis (there is none). The U.S. national debt is at \$15 trillion; the unemployment rate is at 8.5 percent; this year, states are expected to spend 7.4 percent on healthcare coverage; tensions with the Middle East are escalating. However, at the top of Santorum's Family, Faith, and Freedom home-page, is his stance on pro-life issues. Although the issues of abortions rights are not inconsequential, they are not the national issue to address. Thus Santorum shows no promise as a political leader because he is a spiritual leader — his beliefs reside in the church.

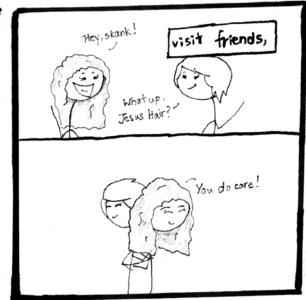
Indeed, this Machine-Gun Preacher in fuzzy cashmere sweater-vests has had good runnings in the political boxing ring. But I see the same demise in him as I saw in Jon Huntsman — the falling-out. Had Santorum not taken his mission-for-God campaign so seriously and instead focus on the bigger issues, he might have appealed to a wider audience. His overall campaign had what I would call the "Gerard Butler effect": the man may not understand his demographics, but he sure knows his Bible.



# FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN FUNFUNFUNFUN

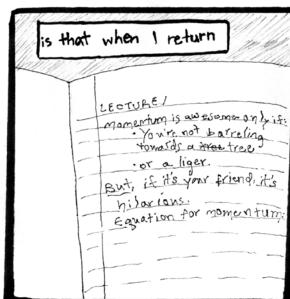
#### Least Acion Principal by Amanda Aparicio















#### Sudoku

Solution, page 12

						8		
9				7	6	2		
6	1	2		5	8	4		
4			5					7
	9						4	
5					1			2
		3	6	9		1	2	4
		9	2	1				5
		4						

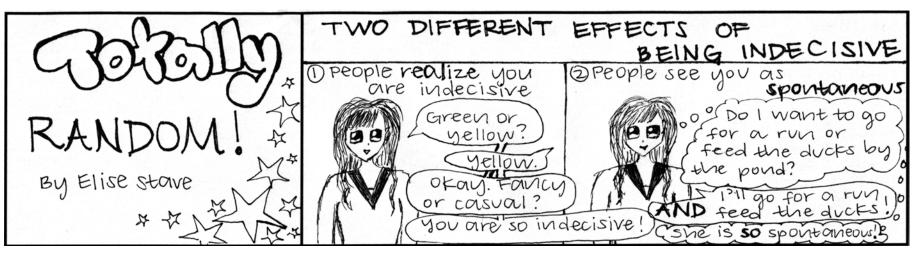
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

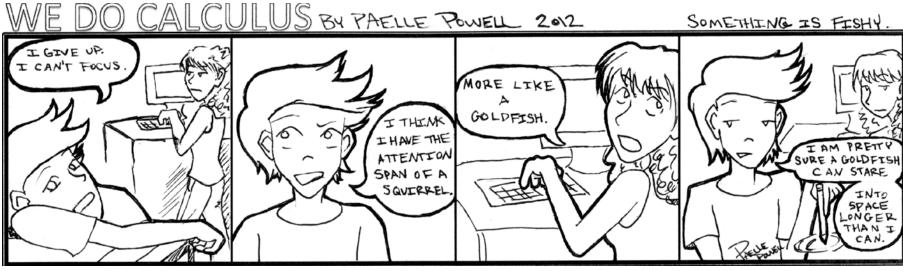
#### Techdoku

Solution, page 12

12×	į	120×			2
	3÷			15×	
11+	480×			5×	
			6×		12×
			ox .		lizx
	12+			2	
5	<b>-</b>	24×			6
				!	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.















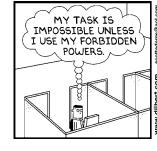
by Jorge Cham

#### **Dilbert** by Scott Adams









by Lester Ruff





#### **Stumper Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 9

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 For quite a while
- 9 Museo de América locale 15 World's largest volcano by volume
- 16 Swindle
- 17 Call from a cage
- 18 Break in the proceedings
- 19 Onetime major newsphoto source
- 20 1776 character
- 22 Pick
- 23 On the way
- 25 Word on mazes
- 26 Toon bruin
- 27 Stock-market stats
- 29 Shakespearean preposition
- 30 Worries
- 31 Ruling source
- 33 Article starter 35 One of Victoria's titles
- 39 Picks
- 40 That's Not All, Folks! autobiographer
- 42 Teriyaki option
- 43 Rule material
- 44 Big name in electricity

- 46 Disney's follow-up to Dumbo
- 50 Still-life subject
- 51 Walk (on)
- 53 Cordial
- 54 Paid pitches 55 British toast
- 57 Sort of break
- 58 Western predator 60 Spumoni alternative
- 62 Poles are found there
- 63 Broadcasting now
- 64 Sort of plain 65 Give up

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Western plot element
- 2 Asian capital
- 3 Drawing in
- 4 Outcome
- 5 Its Web site has an Ozone Resource Page
- 6 Shapeless masses
- 7 Marquee time
- 8 Drawn
- 9 Excellence
- 10 Ice Age novelist

- 11 Century-ending year
- 12 Subject taught by Aristotle 13 Federal job
- 14 Won't go anywhere near
- 21 Tracts
- 24 Whom a humor-writing prize is named for
- 26 Gerald Ford alma mater
- 28 Common sense
- 30 Star
- 32 Free TV spot
- 34 Shape of some office desks
- 35 Gaps in typography
- 36 Dealt
- 37 It's fun
- 38 Result of soft-palate
- 41 Cornmeal product
- 45 Place for slips
- 47 Zealot
- 48 Word on São Paulo stamps
- 49 Foul 51 Semicircular canal count

52 Foul

per ear

- 55 British sluggard of the comics
- 56 Where Lost was filmed
- 18 19 20 23 27 35 36 | 37 40 43 47 48 49 50 54 58 60 63 62 65 64
- - 59 DC designation 61 Target audience for Shave magazine

8 THE TECH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

# The 5th Annual MIT Hummus Experience



Thursday, January 19, 2012 12-1p | Building 10 - Bush Room

Vote for the best home-made hummus at MIT. Help choose the best hummus at MIT's annual "made from scratch" hummus taste-off! Participate in a blind tasting of hummus made by fellow students. Be dazzled by the variations in flavor and texture. We promise free hummus and pita, give aways, and much more.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 THE TECH 9

# Fewer early applicants means stronger matches

#### Despite the decline in numbers this year, admissions staff still excited to admit new class

Admissions, from Page 1

Because there were less early applications this year, less students were admitted through the early action program. Schmill said that the admissions office intends to enroll 35 to 40 percent of the incoming class through early action.

Schmill is generally pleased with the breadth of applications that MIT receives. "I think we get a very large portion of the really talented students from around the country certainly who are interested in science and engineering and technology," he said.

Schmill added that he realizes

dents who might be well suited for MIT but do not apply because their backgrounds are such that they do not have "the same kind guidance, where there are people around them who are pointing them towards MIT." Schmill explained that there are outreach programs designed to target these students, but that "we don't try to recruit students who we don't think will have a reasonable chance of being admitted. We're not interested in simply increasing our application numbers just for the sake of it."

The total number of applications received -6,102 — (which

that MIT might miss some stu-includes withdrawn and incomplete applications) marks a 4.7 percent decline from last year's high of 6,405 applications. Still, Schmill stated that "this year's admissions cycle was really tough because the applicants we got were uniformly excellent. Despite the fact that the total number of early applicants went down just a bit, the fact that we're only admitting such a small percentage of the total makes it as tough as ever."

> This level of competition has been consistent over the last few years, and Schmill said that he is very happy about how the class is thus far "I'm very excited about

the students we've admitted. ... I'm just excited about the fact that we're going to have another really awesome class join us in the fall."

In a blog entry he posted after the release of decisions, admissions officer Chris Peterson wrote that "[the admitted students] represent some of the best and brightest stars of our future. We are honored to welcome them to campus, where they will join the similarly accomplished, diverse, generally excellent community of students who already call MIT home."

Schmill mentioned that he was also impressed by the 1,308 applicants (21.8 percent) who were not admitted and the 3,731 applicants (62.1 percent) who were deferred. "I am always, and maybe even more so this year, amazed at the strength of the students who we weren't able to admit and who we've deferred and are now in the regular action pool," he said "Many of these are extremely strong and talented students who we will wind up admitting in March."

The remainder of the class of 2016 will be admitted through the regular action cycle in March. No information on the regular action cycle is currently available.

"The dust hasn't quite settled on that yet," Schmill said.

# Despite stress, students still satisfied with MIT

#### Enrolled Student Survey shows that MIT does get better before you graduate

Survey, from Page 1

to "walk-in hours" (held weekdays 2-4 p.m.) "increased by more than 60 percent [this year]."

'The average number of students seen each day doubled from past years ... my personal experience and that of my colleagues on staff is that MIT students do feel more stress and distress than in previous years," Sie-

The reason behind the increase in stress is hard to pinpoint. MIT students evaluated several sources of stress, and reported managing course workload as the most stressful, followed by concerns about future plans, balancing multiple commitments, difficulty of curriculum, personal/relationship problems, and financial worries, in that order.

With so many commitments and

a difficult course load contributing to student stress, time management is always a challenge for MIT students. The survey also polled students on what they do in their time outside the classroom and how they balance their schedules

#### Students develop better relationships with faculty as the years go by, and **GPAs** increase.

#### Student activity outside of

The average MIT student spends, weekly; 6-10 hours working, 21-25 hours studying or doing homework, and 0-5 hours exercising or playing sports. Fourteen percent of students reported zero hours of physical activity a week. Half of MIT students have done community service in their free time as well.

Seventy-four percent of seniors surveyed had done research with a professor, while the same amount of freshmen plan to do so. While most students fulfill their plans of doing research, only about half of those who plan to study abroad actually end up doing so. Fifty-two percent of freshmen say they plan to study abroad, but only 24 percent of seniors reported that they had. Dr. J. Chapell H. Lawson, Director of MISTI, attributes this disparity to complicated schedules. He advises students to plan ahead if they're serious about studying abroad. "The earlier students start thinking about their schedules, the more opportunities they will have open to them," Lawson said.

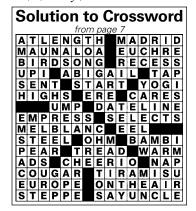
Besides being able to do research or study abroad, MIT students seem to benefit from their education here. Ninety-eight percent of seniors agreed that MIT had increased their knowledge of a specific field by at least some amount, and 95 percent felt that their experience here had increased their knowledge and careerrelated skills.

The survey also showed that students develop better relationships with faculty as the years go by, and their GPAs generally increase as well. Seniors reported the most A's out of all the classes, and freshmen the most C's. More seniors also felt they knew more faculty well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation, demonstrating that students get to know professors better over the

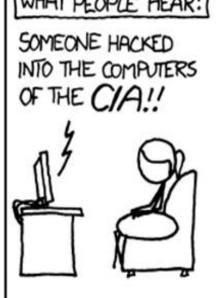
Although the Student Survey

revealed MIT can be stressful, the results also show students gain confidence and experience during their time here, and participate in a variety of activities outside the classroom.

The full results of the survey are available online at http://web.mit. edu/ir/surveys/enrolled.html.









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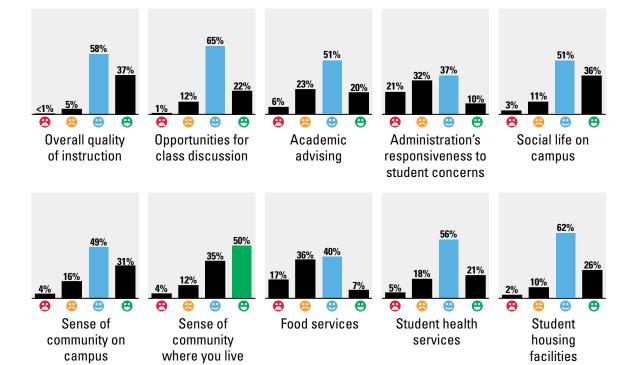
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 10 THE TECH

A quick look at the...

# **MIT Enrolled Student Survey**

Data taken from 2011 Enrolled Student Survey, which can be found online at http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/enrolled.html. 65 percent of undergraduate students responded to the survey.

## 93% of MIT students rated their entire educational experience as good or excellent



35% often pull all-nighters

57% often feel overwhelmed by all they have to do

60% often feel they aren't as accomplished as some of their classmates

85% only rarely or occasionally feel like they don't fit in

INFOGRAPHIC BY CONNOR KIRSCHBAUM—THE TECH

# Embryonic stem cell research challenged, again

#### Sherley continues stem cell debate with an appeal to a panel of judges for the third time

By John A. Hawkinson

STAFF REPORTER

James L. Sherley has filed the first brief of his formal appeal in his battle to stop government funding of human embryonic stem cell research.

Sherley is the adult stem cell researcher who left MIT under a cloud in 2006. He was denied tenure in the Department of Biological Engineering in 2004, and then alleged the denial was racially motivated. After repeated appeals of his tenure decision, he staged a hunger strike in the spring term of 2006 and subsequently left the Institute. He is now a researcher at the Boston Biomedical Research Institute in Watertown, Mass.

Sherley has been battling the National Institutes of Health in federal courts in Washington D.C. over the legality of their funding since August 2009.

The core issue is that federal w prohibits government funding of "research in which a human embryo or embryos are deDickey-Wicker amendment. Does use of existing human embryonic stem cell (hESC) lines constitute research where embryos are destroyed, or is the prior destruction of embryos separate research?

Sherley and his co-plaintiff, Theresa A. Deisher, argue that it is the same research, and thus barred by Dickey-Wicker. The NIH, of course, disagrees. The court briefs have spent many pages debating the definition of the word "research" with countless citations to dictionary definitions and the like.

Sherley's 96-page brief renews much of the same arguments as before: first, that present-day research is the same research that destroyed embryos; and second, that the NIH promulgated its guidelines for hESC research in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sherley's first case, in 2009, was before the D.C. district court. The court dismissed the case, saying that Sherley and Deisher lacked standing to sue, because they were not actually harmed by the NIH's stroyed," which is known as the policy. Sherley appealed that decision to the D.C. Court of Appeals, which supported him, saying that his potential loss of grant funding was sufficient to merit the suit, and sent the case back to the District Court. This was in June 2010.

#### Sherley's appeal before the appeals court will be heard by yet another randomly-selected three-judge panel.

The district court then issued a preliminary injunction in favor of Sherley, momentarily causing researchers, at MIT and elsewhere, to wonder whether they could continue to do their work. The injunction also disrupted the NIH grant process, preventing the NIH from making funding decisions on upcoming hESC research

The NIH appealed the preliminary injunction to the same appeals court, but to a different NIH's judgement. Sherley will be

randomly-assigned three-judge panel. That panel ruled in favor of the NIH, by a two-to-one vote, vacating the preliminary injunction and once again sending the case back to the district court.

Finally, in September of 2011, the district court ruled against Sherley and in favor of the NIH.

#### What's different this time?

Sherley's appeal before the appeals court will be heard by yet another randomly-selected threejudge panel, the third to hear the case. This panel includes Karen L. Henderson, who was the dissenting vote in favor of Sherley when the injunction was vacated, and Janice R. Brown, who was on the first panel that unanimously concluded that Sherley had standing.

The district court's decision in favor of the NIH gave strong deference to the appeals court's decision vacating the earlier injunction. In that decision, the appeal's court concluded that the word "re search" in Dickey-Wicker was sufficiently flexible as to permit the

arguing against that prior decision by the appeals court.

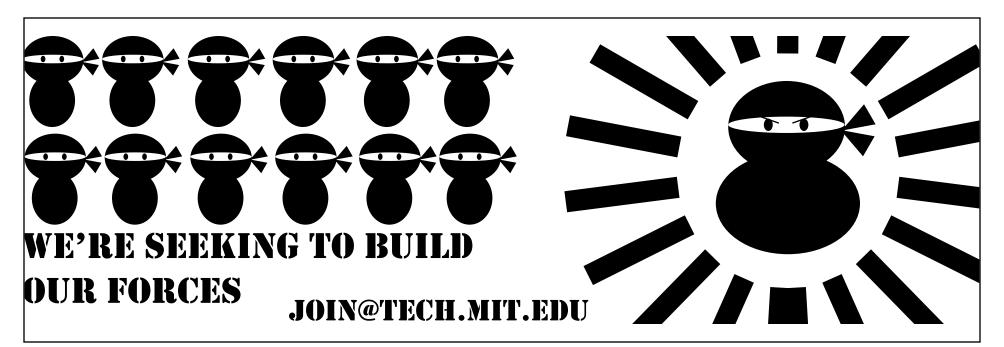
#### **Administrative Procedures**

The second prong of Sherley's argument is that the NIH violated the Administrative Procedures Act when it distributed guidelines on the funding of hESC research. The NIH, Sherley said, "was required to consider and respond to relevant comments, including 30,000 comments addressing whether human embryonic stem-cell research meets the criteria for federal funding.

At the district court phase, the NIH argued that they were not required to consider comments about whether to fund hESC research, merely comments about how to fund it. The court agreed.

#### Remaining schedule

The NIH will file its brief on Feb. 27, Sherley may file a reply brief by March 12, and the case will be argued on March 23. The court is likely to decide the case this calendar year.



Wednesday, January 18, 2012

The Tech 11



1

2

3

5 6

1) Participants gather at the Mystery Hunt Wrap-Up in 26-100 on Sunday evening. The Hunt ended when the coin was found in little Kresge at 10:27pm on Saturday. On stage, from left to right: Josh Ain, C. Scott Ananian, Francis Heaney, Patrick Blindauer, Xavier C. Jackson '12, Kevin Carde, and Barack Michener.

2) A team performs a show after solving several puzzles. The performances are necessary to advance in this year's Mystery Hunt.

"Borbonicus and Bodley" present on plinths during the opening ceremony in Lobby 7 on Friday

Lobby 7 on Friday.
4) **The team "Death From Above"** works to solve puzzles. They placed 12th overall.

5) Members from the team "Fresholve puzzles Saturday evening Fach team

man 15" work in Building 34 to solve puzzles Saturday evening. Each team has a headquarters in separate bases located throughout MIT.

6) Francis Heappy poses as Lee Bodley, one of reappering characters in

6) **Francis Heaney poses as Leo Bodley,** one of reappering characters in the year's hunt.











12 THE TECH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

# Mystery Hunt 2012 proves to be a spectacular show

#### 33 teams compete in events and solve puzzles for a chance to create next year's hunt

Mystery, from Page 1

coin first claims victory This year's coin was a Tony Award, which was hidden in Little Kresge.

A Tony Award, the highest accolade given to a stage production, served as the final prize this year because of the Producers premise for the entire hunt. Upon their return, Max and Leo planned to produce six more terrible musicals with the help of the hunters. These plays comprised the first part of the hunt — but it didn't end there. Just as it happened in The Producers, the plays designed to flop became wildly successful. In the final round of the hunt, Max and Leo decided to produce one more hit. This play, unlike the others, became a huge disaster. In order to redeem their play, Max and Leo decided to steal a Tony Award for it. Thus, the hunters' final assignment was to find the location of that Tony, which was hidden somewhere on campus.

The annual tradition of Mystery Hunt was started by MIT student Bradley Schaefer '78 in 1980. The objective is to solve a series of puzzles and encrypted messages to finally find a hidden object. This year, the structure centered around six different plays and six theater critics. Teams solved puzzles specific to each critic and play, as well as meta-puzzles, which require answers from previous puzzles to be solved, and meta-meta puzzles, which needed all the meta puzzle answers. The winning team's prize is to design the next year's hunt.

There were also several events hosted during the hunt, which teams could attend in order to earn Bupkis, a type of currency that could be used to purchase clue answers during the hunt. One such event was "I'm Wet! I'm Hys-

terical and I'm Wet!" which was a pool party held at the Alumni Pool in Stata. Two members from each team were invited to attend, and were surprised by a pool full of rubber ducks. Each duck had markings on its bottom - revealing a giant, wet version of the popular card game Set. One member from each team participated at a time and had to collaborate with other teams to create a set of three rubber ducks. Other events included a cocktail mixer titled "Bringing Stars Together," and a Name that Show Tune competition.

Teams came from all over the world to participate in the Mystery Hunt. Some teams were made up of MIT students and alums, others of puzzle enthusiasts from around the world. "Manic Sages," the winning team, was comprised of about 150 members and is affiliated with Mathcamp and the Experimental

Study Group at MIT.

This year marked the first hunt for a number of teams. "The Freshman 15," made up of about 25 freshmen, most of whom knew each other from the Discover Electrical Engineering and Computer Science pre-orientation program, greatly enjoyed their first hunt despite the fact that they were facing much larger teams. Team leader Joanna K. So '15 said that as members of a smaller team they had "more satisfaction because you had a greater input" in solving puzzles.

However, facing bigger and more experienced teams "is frustrating sometimes," said Jennifer B. Tilton '15, but the group agreed their team had "a lot of promise." They plan to enter again next year with more members.

One of the larger, veteran teams in the hunt was "Too Big To Fail," estimated to have between 100–150 members. Too Big To Fail has competed in every hunt since 1996, and has written the hunt before as well. In teams of this size, competing in the hunt is a mixture of recruiting new members — "we're very open to people joining," said one MIT alumni member — and using their familiarity with the hunt to become more efficient and prepared for each hunt. Too Big To Fail finished fourth in this year's competition.

No matter the size or success of the teams, all enjoyed putting their minds to the test to solve some challenging puzzles. Puzzle hunters can look forward to next year's hunt, which promises to be just as mind-boggling as this one. Statistics about each team's progress during the hunt can be found online at <a href="http://web.mit.edu/puzzle/www/12/memos\_from\_the\_management/solving\_statistics/">http://web.mit.edu/puzzle/www/12/memos\_from\_the\_management/solving\_statistics/</a>.

#### Fermi award, from Page 1

Richter was selected based on his work on electron-positron colliders, his leadership as director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and his national and international contributions in energy policy, according to the official award citation.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu will present the award to Dresselhaus and Richter in Washington on a later date. For more information on Dresselhaus and her research, check her faculty website at <a href="http://web.mit.edu/physics/people/faculty/dresselhaus\_mildred.html">http://web.mit.edu/physics/people/faculty/dresselhaus\_mildred.html</a>.

—Adisa Kruayatidee

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#### Solution to Sudoku

7 5 4 2 9

3	7	5	4	2	9	8	6	1
9	4	8	1	7	6	2	5	3
6	1	2	3	5	8	4	7	9
4	3	6	5	8	2	9	1	7
2	9	1	7	6	3	5	4	8
5	8	7	9	4	1	6	3	2
8	5	3	6	9	7	1	2	4
7	6	9	2	1	4	3	8	5
1	2	4	8	3	5	7	9	6

#### Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

1	3	4	5	6	2
4	6	1	2	3	5
6	2	3	4	5	1
2	4	5	6	1	3
3	5	6	1	2	4
5	1	2	3	4	6

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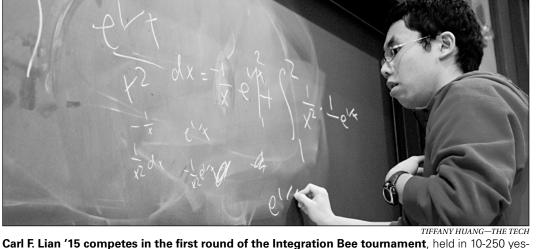
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**Carl F. Lian '15 competes in the first round of the Integration Bee tournament**, held in 10-250 yesterday evening. In order to advance, two opponents race to solve two integrals displayed on a projector above. The winner, Justin T. Brereton '13, was crowned the "Grand Integrator."

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Wednesday, January 18, 2012

The Tech 13

#### **Police Log**

The following incidents were reported by the Campus Police between Oct. 20, 2011 and Dec. 21, 2011. The dates below reflect the dates the incidents occurred. This information is compiled from the Campus Police's crime log. The report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher.

**May 7** West Campus 10:30 a.m., Past report of rape.

Jun 1 Bldg. E23 (25 Carlton St.) 7:00 a.m., Equipment was stolen from construction area. Report

Jun 1 Bldg. W84 (Tang Hall, 550 Memorial Dr.) 7:00 a.m., Suspect of crime bulletin turned himself in. Arrest of Daniel Gora, 44 Grampin Way, Dorchester MA, charged with assault and battery, and breaking and entering. (Assault and battery case on 12/11/2011).

Oct 4 Bldg. W89 (Campus Police, 291 Vassar St.) 8:21 a.m., Report of a past rape by person known to victim. Occurred on the west half of campus in a dormitory.

**Oct 7** Bldg. 8 (21 Ames St.) 1:00 p.m., Tools were stolen. Dispatched west car officer to take report.

Oct 20 Bldg. W61 (MacGregor House, 450 Memorial Dr.) 6:01 p.m., Larceny of bicycle, sector four handles report.

Oct 20 Theta Chi (528 Beacon St.) 7:17 a.m., Breaking and entering reported. Laptop computer stolen.

Oct 20 Bldg. W85 (Westgate, 540 Memorial Dr.) 11:47 p.m., Unwanted person. Person identified and issued trespass warning.

Oct 21 Bldg. W13 (Bexley Hall, 52 Massachusetts Ave.) Past larceny of a bicycle from Bexley courtyard.

Oct 21 Bldg. W20 (Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Ave.) 3:51 a.m., Car 281 stops subject in the Student Center. Jeffrey Mottley, no fixed address (homeless) arrested for trespassing on third floor.

Oct 21 Bldg. W20 (Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Ave.) 6:39 a.m., Car 281 conducts a field stop W20. Trespass warning issued.

Oct 21 Bldg. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.) 1:44 p.m., Reporting party found a used condom in office and the office was secured. Dispatched sector 1.

Oct 21 Bldg. 54 (21 Ames St.) 2:00 p.m., Bike was stolen. Report taken.

**Oct 21** Bldg. 8 (21 Ames St.) 4:21 p.m., Report of suspicious activity. Sector 3 takes report.

Oct 21 Bldg. E19 (400 Main St.) 10:08 p.m., Report of suspicious person, stopped and ID'd as a homeless alumnus.

Oct 23 Bldg. W4 (McCormick Hall, 320 Memorial Dr.) 2:53 a.m., Vehicle which appeared to be a Safe Ride van was stopped, ID'd and issued trespass warning. The operator was charging \$5.00 and Safe Ride is free.

Oct 23 Bldg. 13 (105 Rear Massachusetts Ave.) 3:36 p.m., Sector 3 takes report from person who states that the laptop was left in an unlocked room for "one minute" and was stolen.

Oct 24 Bldg. W71 (Next House, 500 Memorial Dr.) 4:26 p.m., Bike stolen from Next House area.

Oct 25 Bldg. W20 (Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Ave.) 12:00 p.m., Larceny of handbag and laptop computer

Oct 27 Bldg. W7 (Baker House, 362 Memorial Dr.) 5:57 p.m., Victim reports black male placed a handgun to his back and took his laptop and cell phone on the fifth floor.

Oct 28 Bldg. 2 (182 Memorial Dr.) 8:00 a.m., Report of suspicious activity.

Oct 28 Bldg. E38 (292 Main St.) 11:13 a.m., Larceny of backpack. Oct 28 Bldg. 37 (70 Vassar St.)

12:00 p.m., Larceny of cell phone. Oct 28 Bldg. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.) 2:44 p.m., Larceny of money from wallet.

Oct 28 Bldg. 14 (160 Memorial Dr.) 2:46 p.m., On second floor, report of a black male in his 40s, white backpack, no teeth, soliciting money from students. Check on subject revealed two default warrants. Atiba R. Nedd, 6 Weld Road, Boston MA, taken into custody on outstanding warrants.

Oct 28 Off campus 3:05 p.m., Report of fraudulent use of an account.

Oct 28 Bldg. NW86 (Sidney Pacific, 70 Pacific St.) 5:58 p.m., Vandalism to motor vehicle. Dispatched west car.

Oct 28 Bldg. 7 (77 Massachusetts Ave.) 6:47 p.m., Report that a white male, possibly Hispanic, wearing a blue fleece, blue jeans, and black nylon string backpack, attempted to steal a laptop. Victim got the laptop back from the suspect, who then left the area. Officers dispatched.

Oct 28 Bldg. 1 (33 Massachusetts Ave.) 7:35 p.m., Reporting party states his laptop was stolen. Dispatched east

Oct 29 Bldg. E55 (Eastgate, 60 Wadsworth St. ) 12:57 p.m., Past domestic incident in Eastgate, loud discussion.

Oct 29 Bldg. W70 (New House, 471 Memorial Dr.) 1:06 p.m., Fire alarm. West car and Cambridge Fire responded to scene. Cause of alarm was actual fire in toaster. No damage.

Oct 29 Bldg. 6 (182 Memorial Dr.) 1:34 p.m., Report unknown person in office. Male fled with bag after being confronted. Sector three, west car, and east car respond to area. Officers check area for intruder and unable to locate.

Oct 29 Delta Kappa Epsilon (403 Memorial Dr.) 11:13 p.m., Cambridge Police Department reports they are responding for a call regarding a fight. Arrest of Jonathan Mande, 68 Boylston St., Brookline MA, for breaking and entry nightime and assult and battery.

Oct 29 Phi Delta Theta (97 Bay State Rd.) 11:34 p.m., Boston Police issued violations to house.

Oct 30 Theta Xi (64 Bay State

Rd.) 12:33 a.m., Boston Police issued violations to house.

Oct 30 Bldg. W61 (MacGregor House, 450 Memorial Dr.) 7:07 a.m., Officers respond on possible domestic disturbance. Loud argument, reports a verbal warning was given.

Oct 30 Bldg. W1 (Maseeh Hall, 305 Memorial Dr.) 8:00 a.m., Vic-

tim reports the theft of his bike.

Oct 30 Bldg. W70 (New House, 471 Memorial Dr.) 8:36 a.m., Report of a suspicious person. Checks out okay.

Oct 30 Bldg. E14 (75 Amherst St.) 8:00 p.m., Victim reports threatening voicemail.

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Some companies

say they do

not make it

a practice to

check Facebook.

#### **ASK CHACHA**

# Does your recruiter "like" your status?

What companies think about social networks when hiring

#### By Jacqueline "Chacha" Durazo

Hello students of MIT! Let me introduce The Tech's new advice column, written by yours truly, Chacha. In the future, I'd love to respond to your requests, so go ahead and email your questions (about anything!) to askchacha@the-tech.mit.edu. As for now, here is my advice on how clean your social network should be for potential employers.

> $B_{Ut\,45\%}$  of employers say check social networks when deciding on hires.



"I like baby animals! Cute, fluffy happiness!! I <3 cuteoverload.com" "Just woke up. Where am I?"

"Holy shit, what the fuck is this liquid? Damn, last night ... "

Clearly, for one of the three former status updates an employer would probably go "d'awww" and like it, while for the other two they would think "hmm ... " and place your application at the bottom of the stack.

I had a friend ask me to what extent do employers look at our social networking pages, and I honestly had no idea. After looking into it, here is what I found: all companies that I contacted and heard back from (Starbucks, McKinsey & Company, Boston Consulting Group, Schlumberger, and Facebook) say they do not make it a practice to check such websites as Facebook, MySpace, etc. Chris Smith, a recruiting manager for Schlumberger, went on to say, "We believe it is an invasion of privacy and an unprofessional way to search for potential candidates." Now, you might be wondering, "Why then do my parents, grandparents, and those nosy neighbors next door tell me to watch what I post to my Facebook page?" Because they're right; while these companies may not check, or are at least claiming not to do so, other companies may.

According to an article by the New York Times, Harris Interactive conducted a study for CareerBuilder.com asking 2,667 managers and human resource workers whether or not their companies check social network sites. They found that 45 percent of employers said they check social networks in deciding on a potential employee and 35 percent decided not to offer a job because of material they discovered. What did they find that they didn't like? Provocative pictures and references to drinking and drugs were said to be "red flags," which makes sense. Once a company hires you, the people you interact with associate you with your company. As an employee, you are essentially a walking billboard. What greater way to advertise than to choose employees who will accurately represent your company's goals? So, commenting on that awesome frozen yogurt place you found near that awesome pizza parlor is cool. But mentioning how sick you were this morning with a previous status from the night before about a "sick" party you were going to is probably not so hot.

Which brings me to my next comment: privacy settings. Do you actually know what your Facebook page looks like to the public? Maybe I'm just a grandpa and don't know how technology works. But let's be honest, understanding security settings on Facebook is about as difficult as backing out of a situation in which you inadvertently called your girlfriend fat, her mother wrinkly, her father Rob when it's Mr. Smith, and insulted her grandmother because you didn't finish your plate. In other words, it's surprisingly hard and confusing to monitor your security settings. I just checked my page and there was some wall activity that I didn't know about, and sadder yet, don't know how to fix. So, a potential employer can't see any of my photos, but can see a little bit of what I've said and to whom. It would take much more than a friend having lax security for them to find out that I said "in the mouth?! THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID ... bahaha" on some status about how a friend has a toothache and needs to see a dentist.

**Provocative** pictures and references to drinking & drugs are red flags.

To summarize:

- Companies may or may not invade your life and look at your Facebook. Be smart about what you post, especially pictures. Don't forget about ones posted by friends! To read more about this issue, check the article by the New York Times: http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/20/ more-employers-use-social-networks-to-check-out-applicants/
- Go and check your actual security settings. You might be surprised.
- Once things go on the internet, they never go back. So really, don't be dumb (see 1).

Thanks for reading! Be sure to send your requests to askchacha@the-tech.mit.edu! I'll pick one or two and answer them next week. Until then, cheers!

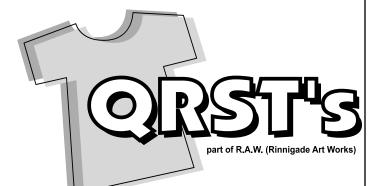
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# Letting the stream of life flow unimpeded

Ruminations on the need for mental maturity

By Amanda Aparicio

ASSOCIATE CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

This past year, I turned twenty.

Biologically speaking, I would not dispute that my body had matured into an "adult". However, if you had asked me last year, I would have told you that I felt as if I had yet to leave the "teen" state of mind. The concept of going into adulthood, of gaining more responsibility, of acting more mature — if anyone even knows what that entails — repulsed me more than water does a hydrophobic molecule. I didn't want to grow up, and while I could do nothing to slow the biological process, I could mentally dig my heels into the ground and refuse my newfound title of "young adult".

After having discussed my overbearing hesitancy, it might not come as a surprise that I still did not feel as if I was a college student last year. Instead, my experiences seemed to be caught in some strange limbo between high school and college. Whenever I would hear that someone was in college — college! — I imagined a completely different lifestyle: going out to party on the weekends, going to the grocery store sans parents, tak-

ing care of finances, cell phone bills, and doctor appointments without the helping and sometimes nagging voice of a mom. And even though I discovered I could manage the bare minimum needed to survive, doing any more that what was needed would push me beyond the fine line between a teen and an adult — a point of no return where one heads towards a career, a family, and a huge block of responsibility. There was no way I was having that.

# My experiences seemed to be caught in some strange limbo between high school and college.

But my whole outlook changed when I went home for the break this year.

It was the morning of New Year's Day, and the sun had just begun to peak its head above the horizon. Unable to sleep, I ventured out of my house and found our gigantic, white, reliable dog Maggie snoozing on the front porch. Feeling a bit reflective and acting on impulse, I sat down by Maggie and just watched as the sun lazily crept its way up the sky. A new year had begun, the year of 2012. But what did this mean? Even if it sounds like crazy superstition, what if the doomsayers were right and the world would end in December? Would I be satisfied with my life so far? What had I learned? What had I accomplished? Where did I stand? Where did I want to be if I only had one year left? On the other hand, how does anyone know how much time they have? However obvious it may be, nobody can escape from mortality.

So then, what had I been doing with my life for the past year? Instead of moving on and experiencing what life has to offer, I chose to slam down the brakes, jealously guarding my youth with false reassurances of putting off reality. I had continued to act as I had acted in high school: wake up, go to class, study, p-set, and fill up any left over time with extracurricular activities. The routine gave me an excuse to avoid any thoughts of the future, and the familiarity of being eternally busy let me pretend that I was just at a much more challenging high school.

In reality, while I had been content to stay stagnant, life continued on. If one refuses to yield to change, that person disrupts the flow of life until something shoves them into the stream again. I didn't want to continue on this path, and wake up one day when I'm in my 50s and realize that I've completely shut out an entire aspect of life from fear.

While I understand such a change, such an acceptance, does not manifest itself within a matter of days, I think for a while now I have realized I do want to grow up, I do want to be an adult one day, and I do want to have the adventure of continuing on into the bigger world instead of wrapping myself up in the safe haven of denial. When I look back on my life, I want to know that I've experienced all that I can, and I want to be able to smile while reminiscing.

If I allow fear to hold me permanently in stasis, then how would this be possible?

As I sat in that spot of sunlight with my dog Maggie, allowing the rays to warm my skin, I felt a sense of utter peace and content. I let go of my worries, allowing the heat from the sun to evaporate them away to the atmosphere, and I went back inside to welcome the oncoming year.

#### MIND AND HEALTH

## Relax your mind and focus

Stressed? Meditation can help you

By Alison Takemura

Meditation is a captivating but elusive practice, made famous for its benefits but frustrating for its intangibleness. Some describe it as not thinking about anything, but, then, what happens if you do think about something? If you admonished yourself every time a-triple-chocolate-chip-cookie craving came to mind, you'd soon grow exhausted. Others say a meditative frame of mind bids you to take the opposite approach, by making absolutely no effort to control the mind's thoughts. For still others, meditation is intent focus on the present moment, for example, feeling the coolness of the air, and the dry crush of fallen leaves underneath one's feet.

At its root, meditation is relaxation for the mind a definition broad enough to encompass a spectrum of activities. Focusing attention on sensations in the present is one way; you close your eyes and breathe, noticing any sensations, but with the intention of making no judgments. A guided meditation will often prompt the meditator to focus on parts of the body as a way to release the mind from the drudgery of thought. Alternatively, meditation can also manifest as letting your mind simply be, without asking it do anything at all. "Stop thinking" is an oxymoron, isn't it? It makes you think involuntarily. So, it's a misconception that meditation is not thinking about anything; meditation is a state where one can observe the mind and any thoughts, but not actively pursue them. It's OK that your mind will wander; just don't go egging it on.

Last Thursday, I asked students in W20, "What do you think when you hear the word 'meditation'?"

"A lot of guys sitting on the floor, wearing orange, being bald," said Charlie Henerberry with a smile. True, the Buddhists alluded to by Henerberry are notorious meditators, sitting for hours a day in the hope of achieving enlightenment. But a 2007 survey by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that 9.4 percent of polled U.S. adults, representing more than 20 million people, had used meditation in the past 12 months. A group that big must contain even secular people with full mops of hair, suggesting much less lofty benefits than nirvana can be had by the practice.

Shamarah J. Hernandez '12, looked joyful despite being weighed down by her La Verde's groceries when she stopped to talk to me. She contemplated why she meditates — for her, a practice that constitutes taking long breaths and not thinking about anything beyond them. "During tests, or problem sets, when I feel like I don't know what I'm doing, I breathe, [and] think things are OK," she said. "And it takes like five seconds to quickly regain focus; [if I didn't do it] I'd be spiraling out of control, and I think that's how a lot of MIT students feel."

Reasons for meditating in the MIT community aren't limited to just high-stress situations, though; Jacky Chen G, a graduate student at Sloan, will meditate when he hasn't slept enough the night before to gain energy, and MIT Media Lab graduate student, Elliott B. Hedman G, makes it a regular practice because of the influence it has on the quality of his life; "Meditation allows me take

a break from the swirling chaos of MIT. No matter how much stress I have because of papers, research, and deadlines, meditation is a little island where I can escape [to], and recognize what's really important," he said. "Because I meditate, I ... can take things in stride, and feel more fulfilled."

Because personal accounts like these have been too tantalizing to ignore, a great deal of research has come out regarding meditation's effects in an effort to quantify its fuzzy, feel-good benefits. Findings have substantiated what many practitioners say about meditation; it enables them to better control emotions, lower stress levels, and cultivate compassion. For example, imaging studies on Tibetan monks in 2004, done by researchers at the University Wisconsin-Madison, showed that these long-time meditators had significantly higher levels of gamma waves in the brain, which appear during heightened awareness. They were so high in fact, levels like these had never been seen outside of pathological cases. Interestingly, the levels were highest in the regions of the frontal lobes involved in modulating emotion.

A more recent study found that a kind of meditation — mindfulness-based stress reduction, or MBSR — helps produce a "cone of silence" for meditators. In 2010, a collaboration out of MIT and Harvard found that brain alpha waves, which help suppress the flow of distracting information in the brain's prefrontal cortex, were more responsive and of greater amplitude among meditators, indicating they had increased their ability to focus.

With such positive evaluations, I wonder why I'm not tripping over meditators in the Infinite, as they listen to guided meditations on their iPods — ignoring me peacefully. But that isn't the case; actually, many people I've talked to have never meditated. While some brush it off with a daub of self deprecation — "[It] sounds very interesting, but I'm not clever enough not to think," said Chris C., MIT employee – others just aren't sure what to think. "I don't really know what meditating entails," said Grace Tuyiringire '13. "You sit silently, but I guess I don't see why."

On campus, though, interested students can find many resources for meditation; the Community Wellness Center has meditation drop-in sessions once a month, the Buddhist group, Prajnopaya, has meditation in the chapel once a week, and the Yoga 24x7 club meditates as a component of their weekly meeting. Classes like PE.0501, Upgrade Your Health and Happiness, teach some meditation as a stress management technique, and, finally, the Art of Living club holds a short course on meditation and vogic breathing, called Yes+, to give students a more immersive meditation experience. Matt Clarke and Henerberry are two students who might pursue such options. Clarke, spurred by his curiosity, asked the internet how to meditate when he was 18, but felt that he wasn't getting the most he could out of it. "I would like to do more," he said.

Henerberry was bashfully interested, too. "I would totally try it; I just don't know how."

Just relaxing your mind, a task so easy, can be hard at first. But MIT's abundant resources are a great starting point to show you how.

#### EVENTS JAN. 18 – JAN. 24

#### **WEDNESDAY**

(5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) Bang Your Head! - Heavy Metal 101 — 14N-217

(7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) Investigating Sherlock Holmes — 32-141

#### **THURSDAY**

(12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.) The Annual Hummus Taste-Off — 10-105

(6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) Public Art at MIT — Bartos Theatre

#### **FRIDAY**

(11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) Dear Diary – Before There Were Blogs presented by MIT Archives — 14N-118

(6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) Hacker Movies: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and Cowboy Bebop's "Jamming with Edward" — E15-344

#### **SATURDAY**

(2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Association of Taiwanese Students Cooking Workshop — McCormick Dining

(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Showing of *De battre mon cœur s'est arrêté* (The Beat That My Heart Skipped) — 6-120

#### **SUNDAY**

(9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) 16th MIT European Career Fair — Johnson Athletics Center

#### **MONDAY**

(1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.) The Great Recession in Historical Perspective

(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) The Internet Shouldn't Work: Networking 101 — 4-237

#### TUESDAY

(2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Dark Energy: The Greatest Mystery in the Universe — 37-252

(7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Screening of Shouting in the Dark — 56-114

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16 THE TECH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012



Wikipedia has gone dark today in protest of SOPA (the Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (the Protect IP Act), two bills which Wikipedia states would "harm the free and open internet." A number of other websites, including Google, Reddit, Twitter, the icanhazcheeseburger network, and many others have protests on their sites as well. Google has a large black bar over their logo, and Reddit will be down for 12 hours today. For more information on SOPA and PIPA, check their Wikipedia pages, which are the only open pages on the English version of the website today: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop\_Online\_Piracy\_Act.">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop\_Online\_Piracy\_Act.</a>



Professor Noam Chomsky reflects upon the Arab Spring and Western foreign policy in the Middle East on Wednesday evening. The event was hosted by the MIT Presidential Fellows/Sidney Pacific Distinguished Lecture Series.



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Wednesday, January 18, 2012

The Tech 17





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**CONCERT REVIEW** 

# BSO unveils Harbison's newest symphony, his sixth

Harbison's "Pastoral" symphony is captivating and refreshingly original

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

Two years ago, the Boston community eagerly welcomed James Levine's vision to survey the symphonic music of the worldrenowned local composer and MIT faculty John H. Harbison. Indeed, over the last season and a half, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, directed by Levine, performed in chronological order all of Harbison's five symphonies to date. Last week, this symphonic cycle reached its zenith, as BSO premiered Harbison's newest Symphony, his Sixth, specifically commissioned by (and dedicated to) Levine. While precarious health kept Levine away from the podium for the premiere, David Zinman, a long time friend and champion of Harbison's music filled in. He enthusiastically conducted the concert series, which in addition to the new symphony, featured music by Weber, Beethoven and R. Strauss. Given the eclectic blend of music featured, this program was sure to be a crowd-pleaser; indeed, the Saturday performance that I attended was top-notch throughout and enthusiastically received.

The symphonic genre has evolved considerably since its late romantic era of Brahms and Mahler. As the musical idiom expanded and diversified, the 20th century saw a distinct shift towards programmatic music and descriptive, poetic titles, creating an attrition of works called "symphonies." Nevertheless, John Harbison does not feel symphonies are outdated. A few days before the premiere, MIT generously hosted in Kresge a seminar where the Harbison, Zinman, and mezzo-soprano Paula Murrihy (who is the soloist in the first movement of the symphony) explored the genesis of Harbison's new symphony. The composer believes that the title "Symphony" is appropriate if the music "is symphonic in ambition and scale." Moreover, such a piece implies certain expectations, which, however distant from the classical formal and thematic requirements, they still pose a significant challenge. Additionally, Harbison firmly believes in musical exploration, thus adding the extra challenge of making each symphony unlike any of his previous ones.

Harbison's Sixth Symphony is indeed a highly original work; although still loosely rooted in the traditional symphonic forms, it expands brilliantly and whimsically in uncharted musical territories, while at the same time remaining an inward-bound nostalgic meditation and a sublime soul-searching journey. Elements that stand out include the use of unconventional instru-

ments such as the flexatone and the cymbalom, and the unusual first movement, a song that features a mezzo-soprano soloist. The musical idiom is also remarkable; while it sounds unmistakably Harbison, the music has a fresh, airy quality featuring often long, winding melodic lines and more transparent harmonies.



MIT Institute Professor John H. Harbison had his Sixth Symphony premiered at the Boston Symphony Orchestra last week. The piece was dedicated to James Levine, the former conductor of the BSO.

Although not officially endorsed by the composer, Harbison's Sixth might as well be Harbison's Pastoral Symphony. The suggestion was made at the pre-concert seminar, mostly by numeral analogy with Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, known as The Pastoral. After having heard Harbison's piece though, I feel the parallel goes significantly deeper. Not only is the first movement particularly lightly orchestrated, but by use of the sung text, it paints a particularly vivid image of an ancient, south of Gaul countryside; natural elements (roses, vines, sycamores) and human elements (young women of Gaul) coexist, if only briefly, in a folkloric, almost mythical harmony. This transient, ghostly pastoral vision persists and develops throughout the other movements, aided in no small part by the use of the cimbalom, an ancient dulcimer-like instrument with strong (eastern European) folkloric overtones. Finally, throughout the piece, the harmony, although not technically tonal, tends to gravitate towards F major — the key of Beethoven's Sixth. Illustrative moments for this tonal clearings are the end of the first movement and the beginning of the coda in the last movement.

The symphony opens with a setting for mezzo-soprano and orchestra of James Wright's poem "Entering the temple in Nimes." The striking use of solo voice to start the symphony — a likely unique element in the symphonic world - establishes and foreshadows the originality of the piece. The poem is a meditation on the ephemeral quality of human existence, contrasting the nostalgic reminiscence of some mythical, golden days of the past (the temple of Diana in the days of the ancient Gauls) with the gloomy solitude of the present. Harbison entrusts the vocal part with long, melodic lines, akin to Wright's precise, yet colorful poetry. The orchestra, shyly at first, joins in and discovers its own independent contrapuntal lines, which add significant depth and liveliness to the musical imagery. The light, yet ingenious, orchestration is enthralling, as Harbison judiciously uses the myriad orchestral timbres to paint a scintillating yet nostalgic musical universe. Yet, the music is not programmatic or descriptive. Rather, it develops a life of its own, aspiring perhaps to the Neoclassical ideals of pure music. Therefore, the other three movements of the symphony extrapolate, explore, and distill the musical ideas set forth in the opening song movement.

Mezzo-soprano Paula Murrihy offered a solid, enduring performance, opening Harbison's Sixth. Easily holding her own against the large orchestra, Murrihy captivated with her lyrical vibrato, poised singing style, and sparkling-clear diction. Her mastery of Harbison's often challenging vocal lines was evident as her beautiful singing seemed to echo long into the subsequent movements of the symphony.

The purely orchestral movements of the symphony follow a traditional slow-fast alternating pattern, yet the last movement is in fact a slow movement. Unlike other Harbison symphonies, the movements are separate, and not strung together without breaks. This allows the composer to explore more poised, more deliberate endings, which are introduced every time by the unexpected and strangely foreign sound of the cimbalom. The music is indeed of symphonic proportions; every movement starts out with long, expansive lines and soon after involves the full orchestral might. Nevertheless, just as in Wright's poem, the youthful elan of the beginnings, of the past, eventually fades. The sonorous swells diminish, the rhythmic drive loses intensity and long phrases become fragmented and

#### Boston Symphony Orchestra

**Conducted by David Zinman** 

Featuring mezzo-soprano Paula Murrihy (Harbison) and pianist Leif Ove Andsnes (Beethoven)

January 14, 2012

tentative. Even the third movement, which starts out as a lively scherzo, unravels from cohesive tuttis to individual instrumental lines (in the woodwinds), of almost vocal recitative quality. The final movement brings, albeit fleetingly, a few moments of heroic triumph, with an active brass section and horn calls harkening back to the sound of Brahms' First Symphony. Yet the complete final dissolution cannot be averted; the original vocal line from the first movement returns as the symphony meanders through strange metaphysical realms, out of evistence

Aptly led by David Zinman, BSO offered an exquisite performance of Harbison's new symphony, highlighting both the dazzling peculiarities of the music and its grand symphonic character. Even though it was a premiere, the piece felt well-rehearsed, almost familiar, and extremely enjoyable to witness. Given its originality, deceptive simplicity, and captivating, exotic beauty, Harbison's Sixth Symphony sounded as his best one yet.

While the Harbison premiere was the focal point of the evening, the concert included other delightful pieces, intentionally chosen perhaps to be significantly more lighthearted. Following Harbison's symphony, the BSO played Richard Strauss' tone poem "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks." While this piece is a common staple of orchestral repertoire and an excellent example of Strauss' vivid imagination and superb orchestration, it can't quite hide the fact it was written by a 31-year-old Strauss, full of youthful exuberance and excesses. Following Harbison's deeply introspective and mature work, Strauss' tone poem ended up sounding frivolous and puerile. Moreover, it seemed that once in familiar territory, the orchestra switched to autopilot and delivered a lackluster performance, without significant energy or pathos. Nevertheless, Strauss' rousing fanfare music

and its poignant finale seemed to reawaken the by-then lethargic audience, who cheered Strauss' piece even more than Harbison's (or perhaps the end of the more than twohours-long concert).

The concert opened with Weber's overture to "Euryanthe," an apt warm-up piece, featuring delightful and festive, yet unambitious music. BSO delivered an excellent performance, which highlighted the warmth of the brass section and the impeccable tuning of the string section in the rather tricky key of E-flat. The middle section, featuring a ghostly passage, suggested by the sparse instrumentation, was particularly vivid and enjoyable.

Also on the program was Beethoven Piano Concerto No.1 in C major, featuring Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. While an early Beethoven work, this concerto can dazzle at the hands of an able soloist. That was the case Saturday night, with Andsnes taking full ownership of the piece and more. His sparkling, effortless technique added spice to the repetitive scales and arpeggios of the first movement, while his soulful, lyrical playing brought intimacy to the romantic Largo. Featuring a fearless left hand technique and a compelling (yet not overbearing) stage presence, Andsnes delivered a fiery rondo, full of playful exuberance and zesty cadenzas. The orchestra kept up with Andsnes, most of the time, although at times they sounded a little too subdued. Nevertheless, this spectacular performance marked a welcome return to BSO of this early Beethoven jewel after a six-year absence.

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**VIDEO GAME REVIEW** 

## Adventurers, look out

Oblivion's successor is beautiful, but game glitches hurt the experience



The conflict begins in Skyrim's live action television commercial.

By Keith Yost

As a conservative, I'm always a little bit wary when it comes to video game storytelling. Game development studios, if you ask me, have a decidedly liberal bias. Whether the game is *BioShock*, with its aggressive assault on the ideology of Ayn Rand, or *Grand Theft Auto IV*, with its skeptical look at the American dream, I worry that somewhere out there, sneaky left-wingers are using my recreational time to brainwash me in their ways.

Bethesda Softworks is no exception. In my play through of Fallout 3: New Vegas, I did not, as I had hoped, play as a noble individualist spreading democracy and free markets in my wake. Instead, I played as a thuggish sociopath, whose first instinct upon contact with fellow human beings was to bludgeon them to death with the nearest club and loot them of the clothes off their backs. By the end of the game it was clear — if granted any freedoms or human rights, I would use them to bash and plunder my fellow man without mercy. I could only have two ends: either squeezed beneath the thumb of a ruthless tyrant, or the dictator of all before me. My very existence was a damning indictment of democracy as a form of government.

It was with some surprise therefore, that I found Bethesda's latest release, *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*, to be, if anything, a rightleaning game. The game's pseudo-racist, religious hillbillies were not depicted as opponents of my right to gay marriage or somesuch — instead, they were fighting for my freedom against the impositions of an elitist group of carpetbaggers. Animal rights groups were nonexistent — on the contrary, I was encouraged to spend much of the game

exterminating the land of its natural fauna and was rewarded for doing so. The government of this beautiful land was libertarian, providing only what was necessary to maintain law and order and keep its citizens safe from external threat. It was a paradise.

Besides the game's satisfying policy positions, *Skyrim* has many other considerable strengths. In no particular order:

The game is downright beautiful. It is visually stunning on a level that surpasses anything the Xbox 360 has seen to date. Just the opportunity to wander the epic mountain terrain of Skyrim was worth a solid \$10 of the game's \$60 asking price.

# What Skyrim works so hard to achieve in terms of game immersion, it squanders with software glitches.

Skyrim has made solid improvements to two areas that were woefully lacking in its previous Elder Scrolls titles, namely the voice acting and user interface. I spent much of Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion fumbling through my inventory for items and cursing the repetitive ramblings of the game's NPCs. In Skyrim, the inventory system worked smoothly and I found every bit of the game's dialogue enjoyable.

The storytelling is of very high quality. Any one of the game's side plots could have been the main plot of a lesser game. And for those who want it, *Skyrim* has sprinkled

backstory and lore throughout the world, waiting for adventurers to seek it out.

The gameplay is first rate. Melee combat, ranged combat, and spell casting are all viscerally satisfying, and there is enough tactical challenge to make combat exciting.

Together, the success of all of these elements results in a game that draws the player in and makes the world feel real. My favorite moment was a point, maybe six hours in, where I found myself cautiously hiking through the untamed wilderness of Skyrim toward a distant town, eyes glued to the screen and ears perked for a hint of threats. It is rare for a video game to draw me in so completely that I forget I am playing a game, but Skyrim did it — for 30 minutes or so, as I sat on a couch in the middle of a large urban metropolis, and lived with the very real fear of being eaten by a grizzly bear.

With that said, *Skyrim* has significant flaws that should deny it the distinction of being the game of the year or some similar title. The first and foremost are the game's frequent, and often game-breaking bugs.

What *Skyrim* works so hard to achieve in terms of game immersion, it squanders with software glitches. Frequently during my playthrough, the game would freeze and force me to reset my console. In addition, some sort of scripting error caused the in-game final battle cinematic to break. I finally quit playing for good when, at the end of a long dungeon crawl, my final objective glitched into the floor, and could not be recovered — the quest became impossible to complete without sacrificing hours of unsaved gameplay.

The second problem that makes it difficult to stay immersed in the game is its difficulty curve. Rather than get harder as the game progresses, it tends to become easier — at level nine, every fight felt like an epic battle won only by the skin of my teeth. At level 39, I could zip around dungeons with near impunity, stopping only to loot trinkets from those slain by my summoned minions. By the end, fighting a world-devouring dragon felt several times easier than killing my first troll, and not nearly as immersive.

Also frustrating is the rather linear nature of the game. Linear is a hard label to apply to a game like Skyrim, which allows you to pursue any mission you like at any time, but I still believe the charge has merit. Decisions within games are often criticized for being nothing but a choice between moral extremes - you can rescue the kittens stuck in a tree or burn the tree to the ground, but there is no middle road to pursue. Skyrim avoids this convention by denying the player much choice at all — most of the major quest lines are strictly linear progressions, with perhaps one choice of outcomes at the very end. Skyrim's storytelling is a step forward for the game's industry, but the degree of agency that it gives the player is a step backward.

Lastly (and leastly), the gameplay feels imbalanced. Players who play as fighters are likely to have a much easier time of things than mages or thieves. In and of itself, it's not a terribly significant problem for the game, considering that all three paths are fun to play. But, it does make the serious problems with the game's difficulty curve even more critical

All in all, *Skyrim* gets an 8.5 out of 10. It is a game with some significant flaws and a good deal of wasted potential, but otherwise is very well executed. Even gamers not particularly enamored with the fantasy RPG genre should feel comfortable buying this game when it reaches the \$30–\$40 price range.



SOURCE: ELDERSCROLLS.COM/SKYRIM

The mountain terrain in Skyrim makes for stunning visuals.

# MIT beats Babson, Coast Guard

#### Men's basketball maintains their undefeated record

By Shri Ganeshram SPORTS STAFF

Last week, MIT picked up two more wins against Babson and Coast Guard to increase its record to 16-0 (4-0 in conference). In the national rankings, MIT moved up to the third spot, as Augustana College fell from third to sixth; the Engineers also remain as only one of six teams in the top 25 with a perfect

MIT's current record of 16-0 is an Institute record for most consecutive wins to start a season, surpassing the 15-0 team of '61-'62. Andrew M. Acker '15 said that "it's a unique feeling, but honestly we have not been thinking about going 16-0. We have just been taking it one game at a time — the record sort of just crept up on us".

Acker's and his teammates' "one game at a time" attitude has led the team to a successful season thus far. With only 8 games left in the regular season, the Engineers have a good shot at remaining undefeated the entire season and going on to win the national championship.

On Wednesday, the Engineers conquered against Coast Guard. Starting early in the game, MIT put Coast Guard to work, scoring 26 points before Coast Guard could even break the single point barrier. MIT's sheer height and strength shut down Coast Guard; forward William Tashman '13 earned himself a double-double by dominating the offensive floor, with 21 points and 14 rebounds, seven of which were offensive. Noel Hollingsworth '12 shut the opposition's big men out, with 3 blocks; he also led the offensive effort, with 24 points. The game ended with a resounding 83-55 victory for MIT.

The Saturday game against Babson proved to be a better test for the Engineers. Point Guard Mitchell H. Kates '13 led MIT to victory; with 20 points, eight rebounds, and six assists, Kates served as more than just the playmaker for the Engineers—he was the scoring and rebounding leader. The Engineers have cycled through many leaders through the season in individual games, demonstrating MIT's strength as a team. In fact, all five starters average over 10 points per game.

Babson played well against MIT. Both teams scored in bursts during the first half. The game switched back and forth between a small MIT lead and a tight game. However, the final burst of the half, a 9-3 MIT run, allowed the Engineers to end the first half with a slight lead of 37-32.

The first half lead trickled into the second half and was maintained for the rest of the game. Babson did a good job of guarding MIT's big men, Hollingsworth and Tashman, making the two work from the line. The two players combined for 32 points (16 each), half of which were made from the line. Hollingsworth, who struggled from the field (three of 13), managed to make up for it at the line where he was perfect on all ten shots.

The Engineers finished with a 72-63 win against Babson; they will next play at home against WPI on Saturday, January 21st at 3:00 p.m. in Rockwell Cage. WPI, ranked 24th in the nation, will be a big test for the Engineers.



finishing with 210 points against Bates College's 88 and Colby College's 80.

# Madeleine E. Bairey '15 rounds a curve during MIT's first track meet of the indoor season Saturday afternoon. MIT easily defeated its opponents,



BRUNO B. F. FAVIERO—THE TECH

Megan E. Tadge '12 swims in the women's 500 freestyle against Colby College on Saturday. The Engineers beat the Mules 237-57.



Jessica L. Wass '14, a Tech photo editor, performs a dive at Saturday's meet against Colby College. MIT Women's Swimming and Diving beat Colby 237-57.

# **Engineers fall short** to Springfield, 60-43

#### Pena and Burton shine in Saturday's basketball game against Springfield

By Katie Bodner SPORTS STAFF

On Saturday, the MIT Engineers fought hard but fell to Springfield, changing MIT's record to 7-7 (4-2 at home) and improving Springfield's record to 9-6 (5-1 away).

The first half was marked by fast paced lead changes until Springfield pushed ahead and went on a 10-2 run. However, the Engineers had an offensive surge prompted by a nice jump shot from Rachel A. Hunt '14 and two free throws from Mari R. Kordell '15, bringing the game to 12-8. The Pride fired back and held off MIT while going on an 11-4 run. MIT's offense quickly responded after a three pointer from Lauren S. Burton '13, but Springfield went on a massive 18-7 run and finished the first half in the lead, 41-23.

MIT reenergized its play in the second half but could not handle Springfield's attack. The Pride garnered eight out of the first ten points scored in the half to command a 49-25 lead, the largest of the game. MIT, however, showed off its offensive prowess and battled Springfield on an 18-11 run, finishing off the game at 60-43 (Springfield).

Some highlights of the Engineer's play include 11 points each by Burton and Tamara R. Pena '14. MIT also boasted 17 second chance points as opposed to Springfield's 6, due to MIT's greater percentage of offensive rebounds. The Engineers obtained some stronger defensive stats as well, with 13 steals and 2 blocks as opposed to the Pride's 7 steals and no blocks.

The Engineers will next play Wheaton College today at Rockwell Cage at

#### **UPCOMING HOME EVENTS**

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Women's Basketball vs. Wheaton College

Saturday, Jan. 21

Women's Basketball vs. Smith College Men's Basketball vs. WPI

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

1 p.m., Rockwell Cage 3 p.m., Rockwell Cage

## Patriots, Ravens, 49ers, Giants vie for spots in Super Bowl

#### AFC and NFC Championship games this Sunday are the last stop for teams en route to Super Bowl XLVI

By Nidharshan Anandasivam

SPORTS STAFF

#### The NFL Playoffs are in Full Swing

The second weekend of the NFL Playoffs mostly went as expected, resulting in three home victories and one road victory. The San Francisco 49ers put together a drive, capped by a sharp touchdown pass from quarterback Alex Smith to tight-end Vernon Davis, with under two minutes to go to escape with a victory over the New Orleans Saints (36-32). The New England Patriots made a statement as quarterback Tom Brady went 26/34 for 363 yards to put an end to Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos (45-10). The Baltimore Ravens, involved in a defensive showdown

throughout the game, scored two touchdowns in the first quarter and maintained the lead to defeat the Houston Texans (20-13). The New York Giants and Eli Manning put on an offensive display to come up with an unexpected upset over the team with the best regular season record this year, the Green Bay Packers (37-20). This makes for two anticipated matchups this coming

A preview of the AFC and NFC Conference Championships this coming Sunday:

#### **AFC Championship Game**

New England Patriots vs. Balti-

This matchup will feature a solid Ravens defense battling a proven Patriots offense that demonstrated

their offensive firepower last weekend against the Broncos, scoring a record-breaking six touchdowns with five of them in the first half. The Patriots' passing game exhibits the potent duo of quarterback Tom Brady and tight-end Rob Gronkowski, who are determined to dominate as they did last weekend when they racked up 145 yards through the air. If the Ravens want to have a chance of winning, they will have to maintain close coverage on Gronkowski and make the usually relaxed Brady uncomfortable in the pocket. The Ravens will also have to establish their running game if they want to be an offensive threat. This could open up some receivers for Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco, who has a predilection for catching the backfield secondaries

off-guard and burning them with deep completions. The Ravens will have to be aggressive on both sides of the ball in order to have a chance at beating the Patriots, whose offense is very much in winning form.

#### **NFC Championship Game**

San Francisco 49ers vs. New York

Although the 49ers have the better record and the support of a home crowd, watch out for the surging New York Giants, who needed to win their last four games to keep their season alive and did just that. Giants quarterback Eli Manning has been limiting his interceptions and finding receivers, especially Hakeem Nicks, who has gathered four touchdowns in the last two games. Along with a recently rejuvenated passing game on offense, the Giants' defense has been able to get at opposing quarterbacks with a menacing pass rushing attack from the defensive line. Osi Umenyiora and Jason Pierre-Paul are threats to the 49ers quarterback Alex Smith. who will need to have quick receiving options available when he gets blitzed. The 49ers tight-end Vernon Davis uplifted the team against the Saints after catching the final pass. Afterwards, he was seen shedding tears, which he attributed to his reflections on how far San Francisco had come from the beginning of the season. The 49ers are going to need another great performance from Davis and the receiving corps if they expect to beat the Giants.